

Message Text

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44

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-13 SS-15

NSC-05 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 EA-07 (ISO) W

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R 212145Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, VN

SUBJECT: MICHIGAN GROUP'S DESIRE TO CONTACT DRV

EMBASSY ABOUT MIA, CAPTAIN ROBERT TUCCI

1. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (TURROU) INFORMED US THAT HE WAS CONTACTED BY A GROUP FROM MICHIGAN WHICH IS SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO PARIS TO PRESENT A PETITION SIGNED BY SOME 50,000 PERSONS ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CAPTAIN (USAF) ROBERT TUCCI WHO WAS SHOT DOWN IN 1969 ON HIS 267TH MISSION. THE GROUP APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT TUCCI WAS SEEN ALIVE FAIRLY RECENTLY (TURROU THOUGHT IT WAS CONSIDERABLY AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE OTHER POW'S IN 1973). TURROU WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH DRV EMBASSY AND SAID HE WOULD WRITE TO THE GROUP THAT IT SHOULD CABLE OR TELEPHONE THE DRV EMBASSY DIRECTLY TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT TO DELIVER THE PETITION. TURROU WILL BE ABSENT WHEN THE GROUP ARRIVES MAY 30. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ABOUT THE PROBLEM, BUT THAT OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT DRV EMBASSY HERE PREFERS TO HAVE PRIVATE CITIZENS MAKE CONTACT DIRECTLY WITH EMBASSY AND NOT THROUGH US EMBASSY. TURROU SAID HE WOULD SO INFORM THE MICHIGAN GROUP.

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2. TURROU IMPLIED THAT THE MICHIGAN GROUP HAD BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND WAS DISAPPOINTED AT INEFFECTIVENESS OF USG EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THOSE POW'S STILL ALIVE BUT NOT RETURNED BY DRV. IF THE GROUP COMES TO EMBASSY, EMBOFF WOULD EXPRESS THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED VIEW THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE ASSERTIONS THAT NO LIVING POW ARE STILL HELD IN VIETNAM OR LAOS ARE CORRECT. IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT THERE ARE MIA ROAMING FREE IN VIETNAM/ LAOS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON THE MICHIGAN GROUP AND THE STATUS OF TUCCI, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS HIS NAME ON THE LIST OF 76 WE PROVIDED TO THE DRV? PLEASE INSTRUCT IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL ACTIONS WE SHOULD TAKE -- WE PRESUME DEPARTMENT HAS NOT CHANGED EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR US TO ENCOURAGE SUCH GROUPS TO MAKE THEIR OWN CONTACTS WITH DRV OFFICIALS AND USE THEIR OWN INTERPRETERS.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS15149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760199-1042
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760528/aaaaaxsz.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MICHIGAN GROUP'S DESIRE TO CONTACT DRV EMBASSY ABOUT MIA, CAPTAIN ROBERT TUCCI
TAGS: CASC, VN, (TUCCI, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006